

Philip K. Howard is a noted commentator on the effects of modern law and bureaucracy on human behavior and the workings of society. Currently Senior Counsel at Covington & Burling LLP, Howard is also the chairman of Common Good ([commongood.org](http://commongood.org)), a non-partisan organization that works with experts from around the country to develop legal and government overhaul initiatives.

Howard is the author of *The Death of Common Sense* (1995), a bestseller which chronicles how overly-detailed law has similar effects to central planning; *The Collapse of the Common Good* (2002), which describes how fear of litigation corrodes daily interaction; and *Life Without Lawyers* (2009), which proposes rebuilding reliable legal boundaries to define an open field of freedom. His latest book, *The Rule of Nobody* (April 2014), argues that American government is structurally paralyzed and must be rebuilt to revive human responsibility and accountability.

Howard's [speech at the 2010 TED conference](#) was praised by TED's current CEO, Chris Anderson, as "stunning" and something that he wished "every member of Congress, every Supreme Court justice would see." It has been viewed over 580,000 times.

Howard has worked closely with leaders of both major political parties in the United States. He wrote the introduction to Vice President Al Gore's *Common Sense Government*, and has also advised a number of governors, including Democrats Lawton Chiles of Florida and Zell Miller of Georgia and Republicans Jeb Bush of Florida and Mitch Daniels of Indiana. He was also a special adviser on regulatory simplification to Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Arthur Levitt.